



H1N1 Virus Partner Briefing

Influenza A (H1N1) Virus
August 26, 2009, 3 p.m.

Rhode Island: 203 confirmed positive cases, 76 hospitalized to date, 3 deaths
National Report: 53 states (including DC, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands) with 7,983 hospitalized cases, 522 deaths

H1N1 vaccine update

H1N1 vaccination efforts are expected to begin in October and continue through November and December. Pregnant women and children will be prioritized to receive the vaccine first when it becomes available. HEALTH is currently developing a complete H1N1 vaccine distribution plan. When plan details are confirmed, HEALTH will post them on its website, www.health.ri.gov, and share them with partners in the weekly partner briefing. HEALTH is also planning a public education campaign that will include printed educational materials. Future partner briefings will update partners as information becomes available.

Adult seasonal influenza vaccine

Adult seasonal influenza vaccine is available and is being distributed through HEALTH's Adult Immunization Program. HEALTH encourages all adult providers and patients to focus immediate vaccination efforts on seasonal flu. Providers are strongly encouraged to start seasonal vaccination efforts as soon as they receive vaccine. Annual seasonal influenza vaccination is the best way to prevent seasonal flu and avoid spreading it to people at high risk of flu-related complications. Adults can receive the seasonal influenza vaccine from providers who are enrolled in the adult program, at public flu clinics, or in the workplace. Patients with seasonal flu develop fever, cough and sore throat, which is indistinguishable from H1N1.

Communication toolkits (CDC)

Communication Toolkits for Institutions of Higher Education, Schools (Grades K-12), and Businesses and Employers are now available online from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The toolkits provide information and communication resources for the 2009/2010 influenza season.

- Communication Toolkit for Institutions of Higher Education:
<http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/higheredtoolkit.pdf>
- Communication Toolkit for Schools (Grades K-12):
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/toolkit/pdf/schoolflu toolkit.pdf>.
- Communication Toolkit for Businesses and Employers:
http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/business/toolkit/pdf/Business_Toolkit.pdf.

H1N1 email address

Partners can continue to use the H1N1 email address to communicate directly with HEALTH during the 2009/2010 influenza season: h1n1@health.ri.gov.

Resources

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- WHO at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>